

# ANTI-CORRUPTION RESEARCH NEWS

## KNOWLEDGE FOR TRANSPARENCY - LINKING ANTI-CORRUPTION RESEARCH AND PRACTICE

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## ACRN: MOBILISING GLOBAL KNOWLEDGE AGAINST CORRUPTION

Welcome to the fifth issue of Anti-Corruption Research News. Here you will find recent insights and activities in anti-corruption research, synthesised for scholars, policy-makers and anti-corruption practitioners. This newsletter is part of the Anti-Corruption Research Network (ACRN), an initiative by Transparency International to build a knowledge community and information service for anti-corruption research.

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### ORGANISED CRIME AND CORRUPTION

By Prof. Leslie Holmes, University of Melbourne\*

#### Growing awareness of connections

Traditionally, research on organised crime has been conducted separately from that into corruption. Several factors explain this. One is the traditional boundaries between sub-disciplines in criminology, political science, sociology and economics. Another is that while techniques for measuring corruption, though still imperfect, have substantially improved since the mid-1990s, organised crime measurement has lagged behind. This disparity has discouraged many researchers from engaging in explicit comparison. Third, organised crime generally involves threatened or actual violence, while many forms of corruption do not. The result is that ethics committees in universities and elsewhere have often rendered it more difficult to conduct primary research into the former. Given that contemporary social science is so evidence-based, this has shifted research towards corruption and away from organised crime. Finally, and arguably most basically,

general awareness of the interconnectedness between organised crime and corruption has until fairly recently been low.

Yet, there is no question that because of corruption the scale of organised crime is much higher than it would otherwise be and that it is vital to attempt to increase our knowledge and understanding of collusion. Some highly influential analysts, including Dennis Blair, the US Director of National Intelligence, maintain that organised crime has become so powerful in some countries - such as certain Soviet successor states, parts of Latin America and China - that it has partly captured the state<sup>1</sup>; state capture is arguably the most dangerous form of linkage between organised crime and corruption.

Fortunately, some of the reasons for the limited analysis of connections between organised crime and corruption are less salient now than they used to be. Thus the push towards more multi-, trans-,

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### Latest from the ACRN online platform on anti-corruption research

*A growing network of students, scholars and professionals contribute resources and expertise to ACRN on a regular basis. Over 200 members from all regions of the world have registered to the web platform in the past month. The site currently enjoys readership from over 140 countries around the world.*

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## ANTI-CORRUPTION RESEARCH NEWS

### SPOTLIGHT: ORGANISED CRIME AND CORRUPTION



and interdisciplinary research in social science has resulted in the publication of collections focusing specifically on these linkages from several perspectives.<sup>2</sup>

Moreover, 9/11 led to substantially increased awareness among governments and international organisations of the linkages between terrorism, organised crime and corruption. This has resulted in much closer scrutiny of the related issues of terrorist financing and money-laundering, which in turn has led to a refinement of measurement techniques for both organised crime and corruption. In addition to official *legal* statistics on both, there is an increasing amount of hard data and research on their *economic* impact. The emphasis placed by security analysts since the 1990s on so-called soft security has also prompted increased research into organised crime and its connections to corruption: awareness of collusion has been raised by the apparent increase in transnational trafficking – of weapons, drugs and humans. While considerable attention has been paid to the first two of these for several decades, *human* trafficking has moved rapidly up the research agenda since the 1990s, and a key dimension of this is collusion between corrupt officials and crime gangs.

#### Current and future research

Despite the inherent problems involved in researching organised crime, corruption, and the linkages between them, recent studies have provided considerable evidence of collusion and its drivers, and have identified particularly high risk areas. The application of various theoretical approaches – rational choice, institutionalism, opportunity structures, psychological, etc. – has encouraged empirical research to test hypotheses and produce new data.

Space limitations preclude much consideration of these here. But among the most detailed analyses are those of police, customs and peacekeeping officers' involvement with organised crime in various

kinds of trafficking.<sup>3</sup> Small-N case studies and survey-based research have provided detailed evidence – sometimes hard, sometimes strongly circumstantial – of collusion between politicians, appointed state officials and criminals in areas such as drug trafficking, cigarette smuggling, money laundering and public procurement.<sup>4</sup>

The definitions and parameters of both organised crime and corruption remain contested. But definitional debates are nothing new, and the focus here will be on five specific aspects of research into organised crime and its connections with corruption that are hot topics.

The first is measurement. The 1990s witnessed the rise of perception-based and attitudinal surveys on both corruption and, to a lesser extent, organised crime. Various criticisms of these led to a search for other measurement tools. Many saw experiential crime victim surveys as one of the most promising sources for refining our knowledge of the scale and nature of both organised crime and corruption. While experiential surveys also have their limitations – they are typically poor at identifying high-level (elite) corruption, for instance – they continue to make a valuable contribution to our knowledge about corruption and organised crime.

Regarding organised crime, other recent developments include the German police's 'organised crime potential' and Ghent University's 'risk-based methodology'<sup>5</sup> (for an analysis and critique of both see von Lampe, 2004<sup>6</sup>). Both methods move beyond measuring organised crime in traditional ways, and instead rank-order crime groups. The first ranks them in terms of their level of sophistication ('professionalism'), and focuses on structure, operating procedures, scope, areas of criminality and ethnicity. The second includes changing social environmental factors, and assesses the dynamism of risk from crime groups. In addition, progress is being made in measuring specific aspects of

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## SPOTLIGHT: ORGANISED CRIME AND CORRUPTION

*“The relative balance and the connections between local and transnational organised crime, and their respective relations with corrupt officials, are still highly contested and under-researched.”*

organised crime activity, such as human trafficking<sup>7</sup> that also involves corruption. There is also an increasing number of ways of measuring corruption specifically, including tracking surveys, sectoral or regional and individual nation-based risk assessments, and evaluations of anti-corruption methods.<sup>8</sup> Formal network analysis is being used to study the perceived scale and nature of both organised crime and corruption, and the connections between them. Nowadays, wisely, the trend is to combine and compare as many of these techniques as possible in our endeavours to better measure and understand organised crime, corruption, and their links.

A second current research topic is mutation, particularly regarding organised crime. Such mutation can occur in different ways. One is for other forms of anti-social behaviour to mutate into organised crime. Thus terrorist groups sometimes mutate into crime gangs once their primary objective has been achieved, or because they have abandoned their attempts to secure that goal. While this is not a new phenomenon - the Triads were originally a Chinese political organisation, but mutated into organised crime in the early twentieth century - many new cases are now being investigated. Mutation into organised crime can also involve corrupt officials, for example, former police or military officers that join or establish organized crime rackets. This has been documented particularly in post-conflict and/or transitional societies, although there have also been many cases in industrialised countries. Finally, mutation can also refer to the reverse transition, e.g. when organised crime increasingly seeks to engage in licit economic activity.

A third interesting area for research has been opened when researchers have challenged some of the claims by security specialists about transnational organised crime. They

argue that much organised crime is far more of a local phenomenon than is usually acknowledged, and that it does not constitute the international threat some security analysts claim. In order to convey the complex and mixed nature of organised crime - it is expanding at *both* the local and the transnational level - Hobbs<sup>9</sup> referred to its ‘glocal’ nature. The relative balance and the connections between local and transnational organised crime, and their respective relations with corrupt officials, are still highly contested and under-researched.

Fourth, new research is exploring possible similarities (parallels) between the functions performed by organised crime gangs and those of corrupt officials. For example, the notion that one of the ‘services’ often offered by organised crime - protection - can be tested in the context of corruption (i.e. in what ways and to what extent do corrupt officials sell protection?).<sup>10</sup>

Finally, there has been a focus for at least a decade on so-called state capture. This term initially referred primarily to the influence that private firms can improperly exert on state officials - mainly legislators and administrators - to pass (or block) and implement laws and regulations that provide advantages for those firms but go against the public interest. More recently, there has been growing awareness that organised crime can also attempt to capture states through corruption of state officials.<sup>11</sup>

These and other topics will continue to be important to researchers and practitioners in the coming years: the linkages and similarities between organised crime and corruption constitute a dynamic and rich research area, albeit a very complex one. Related efforts will probably only chip away at the problem little by little, but, unquestionably, this research is highly policy relevant and needs to be conducted.

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## ANTI-CORRUPTION RESEARCH NEWS

### HIGHLIGHTS IN ANTI-CORRUPTION RESEARCH

#### MEASURING CORRUPTION

##### Open Budget Survey 2010

In October 2010, the International Budget Partnership published its bi-annual assessment of budget transparency and accountability across the world. Produced by independent experts, the reports reveals that 74 of the 94 countries assessed failed to meet basic standards of transparency and accountability with national budgets. Only seven countries release extensive budget information. China, Saudi Arabia, Equatorial Guinea, Senegal and Iraq are among the worst performers.

<http://www.internationalbudget.org/>

##### The Global Corruption Barometer (GCB)

With more than 91,500 respondents drawn from 86 countries and territories around the world, Transparency International's 2010 GCB, released in early December 2010, finds the poor to be disproportionately burdened by bribe demands. For most people around the world, political parties, the civil service, parliaments and the police are the institutions perceived to be more affected by corruption. One out of two people interviewed consider their government's actions to fight corruption to be ineffective, yet, there is a general belief that citizens can make a difference. Most people are willing to report a corrupt act when it occurs.

<http://www.transparency.org/>

##### Aid Transparency Assessment

Publish What You Fund compiled its first global assessment of the transparency of 30 donors across seven weighted indicators from eight data sources. Indicators fall under three categories – high level commitment to transparency; transparency to recipient government; and transparency to civil society. In spite of a lack of comparable and primary data, findings indicate that there are wide variations in levels of donor performance: As the highest performing donor with a score of 85,4%, the World Bank achieved more than double the transparency score of the lowest performing donor (Japan with 41,4 %).

<http://www.publishwhatyoufund.org/>

##### The Corruption Perceptions Index (CPI)

Transparency International's 2010 CPI measures the perceived levels of public sector corruption in 178 countries around the world. The 2010 results show that nearly three quarters of the 178 countries in the index score below 5 on a scale from 10 (highly clean) to 0 (highly corrupt). This indicates that corruption remains a serious problem in many countries of the world.

<http://www.transparency.org/>

##### 2010 Revenue Watch Index

This report is a unique effort to measure and compare the information governments disclose about the oil, gas and mining industries, including payments to those governments, contracts, regulations and related data. The index assesses 41 resource-rich countries that are among the top producers of petroleum, gold, copper and diamonds, including advanced industrial countries such as Norway and the United States. It finds that the majority of countries (29 out of 41) provide limited public information on their natural resource sector.

<http://www.revenuwatch.org/>

#### UNDERSTANDING CORRUPTION

##### Corruption and the shadow economy: an empirical analysis

Axel Dreher, Friedrich Schneider, 2010

This study explores the relationship between the level of corruption in a country and the size of its black market or "shadow economy". When using a "hard measure" of corruption, the authors find some empirical evidence that low income countries with larger shadow economies tend to have higher levels of corruption. Yet the relationship is insignificant in wealthier countries.

<http://www.springerlink.com/content/m6p737717v086171/fulltext.pdf>

##### The globalisation of crime: a transnational organised crime threat assessment, UNODC, 2010

This assessment looks at major trafficking flows, including drugs (cocaine and heroin), firearms, people (for sex and forced labour), natural resources, counterfeit products, as well as maritime piracy and cyber crimes. It shows that international criminal markets have become major centres of power by not only using weapons and violence, but also money and bribes to buy elections, politicians and power, including the military.

<http://www.unodc.org/>

##### Human trafficking: a global perspective

Louise Shelley, 2010

Human trafficking greatly varies in form and nature across the world. Drawing on a wide body of academic research, prosecuted cases, field work and interviews conducted in all regions of the world, the author examines all forms and operations of the trafficking business, including its financial aspects. The book concludes that human trafficking is likely to grow as a result of economic and demographic inequalities, the rise of conflicts and possibly the impact of climate change.

<http://www.cambridge.org/>



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*“Greater transparency enables better oversight, better access to credit, better policy choices, and better service delivery.”*

Warren Krafchik (2010)  
Director of the International Budget Partnership

*“Corruption, coercion and white collar collaborators (in the private and public sectors) lower risk to international mafias, while the effective logistics they provide increases mafia profits.”*

Antonio Maria Costa (2010)  
UNODC Executive Director

## HIGHLIGHTS IN ANTI-CORRUPTION RESEARCH

*“The present research shows that members of police forces throughout the EU engage in corrupt exchanges with prostitution networks, even extorting bribes or even directly running brothels. Such criminal networks use corruption to obtain information on investigations, ensure continuity of operations, or even to develop monopolies in local markets.”*

Center for the Study of Democracy (2010)  
Examining the links between organised crime and corruption

*“We seem to know very well what makes a country corrupt and its politics “dirty”, but what do we know about what makes a country clean?”*

*“What makes Finnish politics clean (...) [is] the ability of ordinary Finns to monitor what their politicians are doing and to take effective action when something seems amiss.”*

Darren Zook (2009)  
The curious case of Finland's clean politics

### Examining the links between organised crime and corruption

Center for the Study of Democracy, 2010  
Based on a literature review, interviews and a statistical analysis of 14 indicators, this study of organised crime and corruption in 27 EU Member States identifies seven clusters of countries. The report concludes that prostitution and illegal drug markets exert the most corrupting effect in the EU. In particular, organised crime uses a wide range of corruption tactics aimed at obtaining information on investigations, ensuring continuity of operations or developing monopoly in local markets.  
<http://www.csd.bg/fileSrc.php?id=20216>

### The smuggling of art, and the art of smuggling: uncovering the illicit trade in cultural property and antiques

Raymond Fisman, Shang-Jin Wei, 2009  
This paper empirically analyses the illicit trade in cultural property and antiques, taking advantage of different reporting incentives between source and destination countries. The authors generate a measure of illicit trafficking in these goods based on the difference between imports recorded in United States' customs data and the (purportedly identical) trade as recorded by customs authorities in exporting countries. This reporting gap is found to be highly correlated with the corruption level of the exporting country.  
<http://www2.gsb.columbia.edu/>

### Kleptocratic interdependence: trafficking, corruption and the marriage of politics and illicit profits

Kelly M. Greenhill, 2009  
Using cross-national data-analysis, the author demonstrates that in today's increasingly globalised world, the symbiotic inter-relationships between transnational criminal organisations and domestic corruption provide the criminal and the corrupt(able) new economic and political opportunities to exploit. The paper explores how these relationships also enable the same actors to attain new levels of prominence and power, which permit them to straddle borders and to threaten both national and international security in a variety of innovative and unprecedented ways.  
[http://papers.ssrn.com/sol3/papers.cfm?abstract\\_id=1449326](http://papers.ssrn.com/sol3/papers.cfm?abstract_id=1449326)

## FIGHTING CORRUPTION

### The civil law consequences of corruption

Olaf Meyer (ed.), 2009  
Criminal law has traditionally been the primary weapon when dealing with corrupt cases. Nonetheless, only a limited number of cases end up before criminal courts whereas criminal sanctions may not adequately deter the payment of bribes that promise lucrative gains. Looking at country reports from various European countries and the United States, this book explores the potential of civil law remedies that exist for public and private sector corruption. It shows that civil law contains innovative approaches to complement criminal law and concludes that the fight against corruption should place particular emphasis on protecting the immediate victims by providing civil remedies. <http://www.nomos-shop.de/>

### Deterrence and constrained enforcement: alternative regimes to deal with bribery

Johann Graf Lambsdorff, 2010  
This paper provides interesting insights into deterrence of bribery by investigating how bribe transactions are enforced. Using a game-theoretic approach, the author shows that increasing penalties and the risks of detection is not always advisable. Penalties can have a perverse effect by helping corrupt actors create the bonds that are needed for enforcing their deal. It argues that governments may deter bribery by high penalties and risks of detection, potentially supported by leniency given to those who report their infraction.  
<http://www.wiwi.uni-passau.de/>

### The curious case of Finland's clean politics

Darren Zook, 2009  
What makes Finnish politics cleaner than most countries? This paper examines Finland as a model of clean government, looking at the factors that contribute to the country's governance achievements. It finds that key determinants of Finland's clean politics include factors such as social trust, civic activism as well as transparency and accountability mechanisms. The author concludes that, contrary to Singapore's approach to anti-corruption, which is economically unsustainable for most countries, this bottom-up model based on public trust and social capital is affordable, transferable and adaptable to very different political contexts.  
<http://muse.ihu.edu/>

## ANTI-CORRUPTION RESEARCH NEWS

### HIGHLIGHTS IN ANTI-CORRUPTION RESEARCH

#### Political and social foundation for reform: anti-corruption strategies for the Philippines

Michael Johnston, 2010

Based on interviews with business leaders, government officials, academics and civil society leaders conducted in July 2009 and February 2010, the author assesses areas of corruption vulnerabilities in the country and formulates recommendations, including ways to build the political and social foundations to address them in the middle and long term.

<http://www.rvcvstarr.aim.edu/>

#### The distance imperative: a different way of thinking about public official investigations / prosecutions and the federal role

Norman Abrams, 2010

The "distance imperative" refers to the required distance between public officials suspected of corruption and the enforcement agencies in charge of investigating and prosecuting them. In order to ensure the

integrity of the criminal enforcement process, this article examines distance concerns affecting different government agencies, reviews different ways of achieving distance and suggests investigative and prosecutorial policies to address these concerns.

<http://www.ssrn.com/>

#### Enforcement and public corruption: evidence from US States

James E. Alt, David Drayer Lassen, 2010

Using panel data on corruption convictions in US states from 1977-2003, the authors explore the impact of prosecutorial resources on criminal convictions. Findings indicate that greater prosecutor resources result in more convictions for corruption. Although more prosecutorial resources should deter corrupt behaviours by increasing the risks of successful convictions, the authors find more limited evidence for the deterrent effect of increased prosecutions.

<http://www.ssrn.com/>



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### CURRICULUM OF THE MONTH

#### ETHICS AND COMPLIANCE Université de Cergy-Pontoise

Developed by Ronald Berenbeim, the purpose of this course is to introduce a broad range of "non-market" issues encountered by managers and business professionals, and to help develop a set of analytical perspectives for making judgments when such issues arise. In economics many of these issues can be described as *market failures* or imperfections. The course also looks at how the legal system is used to redress such failures. It then examines the role of ethical norms in resolving such issues in managerial life, and in establishing standards of professional responsibility. Some sample topics and examples of recommended readings include:

#### Introduction to ethics and compliance

- Skepticism about business ethics – the ethics paradox
  - L. Bouckaert, "The ethics management paradox", *Centre for Economics and Ethics*, Catholic University of Leuven, 2002
  - Navigating the tensions between principles and rules
    - R. Berenbeim and J.M. Kaplan, "The convergence of principle- and rule based ethics program: an emerging global trend?", *The Conference Board Report*, 2007
- What is market failure and related concepts : (1) Externalities;

(2) Moral Hazard; (3) Misaligned Incentives

#### Basic concepts and methods

- Ethics methods (1) Consequentialism (2) Deontology (3) Virtue (4) Machiavelianism; (5) Game Theory
- Ethical leadership
  - R. Berenbeim, "Why ethical leaders are different", *The Conference Board Report*, 2005
- Identifying market failure situations
  - Anonymous, "The price of lobster thermidor", *The Economist*, London: August 23, 1997, vol.344, iss. 8031

#### Market failure – information asymmetries

- Truth and bluffing
- Conflicts of interest
- Neutral Omnipartial Rule Making (NORM)
- The fiduciary duty
- Sales ethics in financial markets
- Insider trading

#### Market failure – Externalities

- Product liability
- Social responsibility
- Discrimination
- Privacy

#### Market failure – Developing v. developed world

- Global statistics
- Machine tool theft
- Trade and transport – business institutions in global development

## RESEARCH PROJECTS &amp; MARKETPLACE

## RESEARCH PROJECTS

**Open Society Monitoring Index**

Democracy in Africa Research Unit (DARU)

DARU South Africa just launched a new index project, the "Open Society Monitoring Index". Developed with the Open Society Foundation for South Africa, the goal of the index is to measure the free flow of information, the rule of law, the inclusiveness and accountability of government institution in South Africa by looking at indicators such as free and fair elections, judicial independence, executive branch accountability, etc

<http://www.osf.org.za/home/>

**New Right to Information (RTI) Rating Methodology**

Access Info Europe (Spain) and Centre for Law and Democracy (Canada)

This new tool has been launched to assess and compare national right to information frameworks. This methodology will provide a comparative ranking of the world's over 80 access to information regimes. This rating methodology will look at seven key elements of RTI such as the right of access to information, scope, requesting procedures, exceptions and refusals, appeals, etc. These various dimensions of RTI will be assessed based on more than 61 indicators drawn from a wide range of international standards as well as a comparative study of numerous RTI laws across the world.

<http://www.access-info.org/>

<http://www.law-democracy.org/>

**Tools and Resources for Anti-Corruption Knowledge (TRACK)**

UNODC

UNODC is in the process of launching a new UNCAC related legal knowledge sharing network. As a web-based portal, TRACK will compile legislation and jurisprudence relevant to the United Nations Convention against Corruption (UNCAC) from over 120 countries. TRACK's search engine also enables users to access corruption-related information generated by the UNODC, the World Bank and other partner organisations. Finally, as a collaborative forum, TRACK will allow registered users to upload and exchange knowledge and information.

<http://www.unodc.org/>

## RESEARCH MARKETPLACE

## Jobs and Consultancies

- **The Department of Economics of the European University** at St. Petersburg, Russia, is seeking applicants for a Visiting Professor of governance beginning in February 2011 and ending in June 2013. The visiting professor will develop and teach courses related to law and economics, public policy, and governance in transition economies. <http://www.ssrn.com/update/psn/psnjob/job10007.html>
- **The Western Illinois University, School of Law Enforcement and Justice Administration** is seeking an Assistant Professor for Security Studies. Successful applicant may be required to teach Law Enforcement and Justice Administration undergraduate and graduate courses as assigned. 9-Month Position, Starting August 2011. <http://www.academiccareers.com/cgi-win/JobSite/SendJob.exe/ACO/?28194>

## Fellowships

- **The Brookings Institution** is seeking a Senior Fellow for Governance Studies with expertise in American politics, institutions, and policy. He or she will conduct scholarly research, writing, and outreach tasks for book-length publications and shorter policy pieces such as articles and opinion pieces in major newspapers. <http://www.brookings.edu/about/employment/GOV10100.aspx>
- **The Central European University** invites applications for the PhD Fellowships in Political Science. The Doctoral School of Political Science, Public Policy and International Relations offers five specialisations, including comparative politics, international relations, political economy, political theory, and public policy. <http://pds.ceu.hu/>
- **The Edmond J. Safra Center for Ethics** at Harvard University invites scholars, practitioners, innovators and others committed to understanding institutional corruption to submit proposals for the 2011-2012 Edmond J. Safra Lab fellowships and projects. <http://www.ssrn.com/update/fen/fenann/ann10417.html>

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[www.corruptionresearchnetwork.org](http://www.corruptionresearchnetwork.org)

## ANTI-CORRUPTION RESEARCH NEWS

### RESEARCH MARKETPLACE

#### Call for papers Jobs and Consultancies

- **The Unpacking Foreign Aid Effectiveness Conference** organized by the London School of Economics is currently calling for papers. Deadline for submission is 15 February 2011. <http://aidconference.wordpress.com/>

#### Upcoming Events

- **1<sup>st</sup> Global Conference on Transparency Research**, Rutgers Newark, USA, 19-20 May 2011  
The conference organised by Rutgers School of Public Affairs and Administration will be held at Rutgers University, bringing together scholars from a wide range of fields who study issues of government transparency to collectively advance the understanding of the impact and implications of transparency policies. <http://spaa.newark.rutgers.edu/>
- **International Conference on Anti-Corruption, Good Governance and Human Rights**, Paris, France, 28-30 June 2011  
The conference organised by the World Academy of Science, Engineering and Technology will bring together academics, scientists, leading engineers, industry researchers and students to

exchange and share their experiences and research results. <http://www.rai-see.org/>

- **Australian Public Sector Anti-Corruption Conference**, Fremantle, Australia, 15-17 November 2011  
As a joint initiative of Australia's three major anti-corruption agencies, this conference provides an opportunity to focus on the latest contemporary trends, strategies and future directions in preventing corruption. <http://www.iceaustralia.com/apsacc2011/index.html>

#### Training and Courses

- **IDLO E-Learning Procurement Course: Policy, Strategy & Reform (French)**, 24 January-11 February 2011, online course available worldwide  
The overall objective of this course is to enable self-paced training on public procurement with the view to enhancing the capacity of legal experts, public sector procurement officers and purchasing agency managers, etc. <http://www.idlo.int/english/Pages/Home.aspx>



### MEET OUR CONTRIBUTING EDITORS

This section of the newsletter introduces our Contributing Editors to the ACRN community. The contributing editors are young scholars who keep us updated on the latest and best in corruption research and academic debate from a wide range of disciplines and sources. You can contact our contributing editors using the [Member Directory](#) of the ACRN website.

#### NICHOLAS CHARRON



Nicholas has a PhD in comparative politics and political economy from Florida State University.

As a Research Fellow at the Quality of Government (QoG) Institute at Göteborg University, he now focuses on cross-country corruption studies. His research areas include:

- Decentralisation and QoG/corruption at the regional level, in particular within the European Union. For example, he contributed to develop a regional indicator of QoG for 172 regions,

measuring corruption, impartiality and quality of education, health and law enforcement.

- The impact of political institutions on QoG such as electoral systems, federalism and differences within democratic and authoritarian regimes.
- How international factors such as economic and social globalisation, foreign aid and international institutions impact QoG.

His article on the effectiveness of the anti-corruption movement is coming out in *Developing Economies* in 2011.

#### ACRN Research Paper Competition

*ACRN held its very first research paper competition for young scholars in August 2010.*

*The winner of the competition is Aiden Sidebottom, a PhD student at University College London. His paper makes a persuasive case that Situational Crime Prevention can be a fruitful approach to tackling corruption in the health sector and beyond.*

*As a winning prize, he attended the 14<sup>th</sup> International Anti-Corruption Conference in Bangkok.*

<http://corruptionresearchnetwork.org/>

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